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UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

Dear Harold,

November 20, 1969

I will be leaving tomorrow for the U. of Minn. at Morris to speak on the assassination, so I do not have time to write as much as I would like. I will be gone overnight, and then speak Sunday night also. I have heard from Nichol's photographer offering to do work for me and telling me his fees, which is OK with me, although Nichols had left me with the impression that the work would be gratis.

I had better tell you about Brener because I think that I have given you a false picture of what I do and don't know. In strictest confidence, Mary is quite close to Tom Bethell, and Tom has written a book which Mary has proofread, and that is why I said that he is probably not the guy behind the Brener book, since he already has his own. In addition, Mary, who read at least part of the book while I was down there, made some comment about it not having come from Tom, or not sounding like Tom, etc. Apparently Jim sent Tom to stay with Mary in Dallas and although Mary considered Tom completely incompetent as an investigator, she developed a real liking for him. From what I was able to determine, Mary not infrequently develops a strong liking and motherly attitude to people of generally more aristocratic bearing, etc. One of the things which gave me a big buildup to start with was that I was "from Mayo brothers." Needless to say, I quickly put her straight. In any event, add for whatever reason, she is very close to Tom although she has had very little contact with him for a long while. She has tried to call him a number of times and mentioned it in letters, and I think she may have finally gotten a hold of him. She says that she doesn't know if he will ever publish the book and that his is one of several which seems destined to someone's hidden file cabinet (her own in this case). She says that from the totality of her knowledge and her personal contacts with Jim, the staff, and the investigation, the book is a pretty fair account of things and pretty accurate. She voiced no idea as to why Tom hasn't submitted it for publication. To be very honest, I am breaking a confidence by telling you these things, and it feels funny because it is the first time I have knowingly done so. I am fully convinced, by the way, that Mary is being completely frank when she says that neither Tom, nor Boxley, nor Jaffe (the three of Jim's people who lived in her home) have ever been near any of her things, and that at least the last two have never even seen her chronologies which she offered to me at the outset.

On the question of my "immature attitude" in terms of giving out info, although I do not dismiss what you suggest out of hand, I don't think that it is the case. Being a psychologist and also someone who knows you well enough to know that you are perceptive, I am slow to deny any such comments, especially if they come from you. I do not take offense at them, but at the same time don't feel that you are right. I was not suggesting sending the stuff to Mary because of belief in her trustworthiness, but because I have already asked her about him-- and this happened when I was down there. At the time you had already stated directly and unambiguously in a letter to me (which, for that reason, I assumed was completely candid) that had she visited you in Baltimore, there was little that she or Arch couldn't have had, and either nothing or practically nothing they couldn't have seen. Despite that comment, even had I had much of what you have given me which is obviously to be kept secret I would not have shown it, and of course, I didn't have it with me anyway. But, in the case of Davison I felt that she might be of real help due to all she had done on names and people, especially those connected with Oswald (due to their looking, in the beginning, for a left-wing plot).# Since from what I know Dave has many of Paul's memos, and this was in memo form, I assumed that this might even be out. Obviously I would not have mentioned it on the phone or given it to Fred and others, and in fact told Mary to keep it in security since, as she realized, any leak could alert Davison. This is the same reason I feel that Kara-pat, and others like them, should be kept quiet until we know all we can find out. But I talked to her about Davison, not because I felt that I had to show her things, since I had already overwhelmed her with things, but because I felt that she might know something or be able to help.

Now that it is out in Joesten's newsletter, I am not clear what further security could be preserved by keeping it from Mary, especially since she gets his newsletter. Rather than have her duplicate, perhaps there are things she can contribute.

But, in that paragraph you raise more serious issues than my carelessness or lack of maturity. First of all, Hal's flashing the letter may have a bit more to it than childish indulgence, and may involve his trying to prove something to Dave about you. This is pure hypothesis, but Dave has constantly put me in positions in which I felt like doing just that and had to actively resist the desire to do so. Convincing them of something, which is impossible anyway, could have no purpose anyway given their predispositions, so I never seriously considered it, with the exception of trying to point out what Dave was up to to Fred which didn't work. But, the second issue, that of Mary, is more complex, and is becoming increasingly disturbing. When I was there, the ~~###~~ emotional feel I got as both a person and as one who deals with every type of person including psychopaths who lie and take you in, was that she was sincere and genuine. I did not go there to sit in judgment but had to given the things at stake. I liked her although we have differences in political view which are marked, and despite her hangup on social ~~###~~ status. (The latter is a very big item with me and is something which through my tennis career at the big clubs was always eating away at me. You don't know me quite well enough yet to know of this, I don't think, but I tend to think of people as equal and identify with underdogs in general.) Arch was more difficult, and it was much harder to relate to him. He is a very old fashioned southern racist and an excellent example of how a cultured and intelligent person is still susceptible to such irrational views once he has lived with them all his life. In fact, at his house we got into a big argument on the War in Vietnam, and some on blacks. I did not hide my views down there, although naturally I was more silent than I would normally have been. Arch is a real conservative and very consistent at it; Mary is not#. She says that she voted for JFK, for instance, because she felt that a Catholic (she's one) should have a chance at the White House. Sue, who is the real extremist, was easier to get along with than Arch, perhaps because she was more silent on her views and he tends, although he's quiet, not to be silent and to take things very seriously. My generally WASP appearance and innocent looks, except for the beard which people strangely forget, helped probably most of all. The fact that I am reasonably intelligent and cultured helped a lot too. The archives work (i.e. we spent hours just discussing that one big archives order of mine, and all of my old files, suhh as Martinsburg, and strangely, a few very old items such as the 3 versions--~~5~~ actually-- of LIFE, Oct. 2, 1964) and other ~~###~~ items convinced them that I had done a lot of work. Mary has great respect for your work, although the others don't like your books. Mary says that they are not well organized and hard to read, which I agree with, but like Rich Edelman just wrote me, and like I felt myself, to a real critic there is no question but that you are on the front lines, have done the big work, and uncovered an incredible amount that is important. Mary passed off Lane's book as I did and felt the same way I did--that your books have the real meat in them. By the way, speaking of the rambling style of your writing, I'm sorry about this letter, but I'm just trying to tell you things I haven't had time to write you before to try to fill out what picture I've already given you about the visit.

But, all is not rosy. I am profoundly disturbed, and please take that at face value, that Mary has not sent you the things she promised. The one item is certainly a bit of consolation. She was very open with me, but she has not sent me things yet. Her not sending me things doesn't bother me because she is overloaded with the things I left, but it will a few months from now. You should know that she did not want to keep all those things because she was afraid that it would take her forever to return them, and also because she is so poorly organized in general (although definitely not on specific research problems) that she was afraid that she would misplace them. She said that she would trust Arch but not herself to keep them safe in that respect. But, something I thought that you knew, and maybe you don't also relates to this. When I was down there Jim Schmidt sent a long list of things he wanted done, and Mary got right on it immediately, and mailed them to him just a few days later (names, etc., in city and phone directories, info on certain addresses, etc.) and then continued to do further searching on related topics. So, basically, although I would never consider mentioning what you asked for, or that she hasn't come through for you, I would strongly advise you to ask for them again and see what happens. She seemed sincere in wanting to do things for you and this would be the best way to find out by ruling out the factor of forgetfulness or what have you. But I am very concerned about her failure to make good with promises to you, and am going to be disappointed if she does not because of what it will suggest. For now I do trust her to keep stuff in confidence and do feel that she and Arch are very seriously concerned with getting to the bottom of this. I also feel that Mary definitely does not care which side of the political fence. Sue, by the way, is most certainly not publishing any book, and neither

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are Arch or Mary as best I could determine. In fact, Arch and Mary are frustrated, because they want to give their stuff to someone, but as yet have not found anyone they can trust completely not to misuse it. I think that we will eventually get to see much of it because I think that we are trustworthy and that they will realize it. Sue, once you have met her, seems to be the last person in the world to sit down with the drudgery of writing a book... Sue is a close friend of the Hunts and Rothermel, and she grew up with Hunt's kids. Mary and Arch don't know them.

Fred's statement about Mary having given Gene things is probably a typical Fred exaggeration which is meaningless. I would attach no significance to it. Mary did give him stuff on right wingers--those in whom he is interested--but knows nothing about Mark. I doubt if she would give him things to use on Jim, and she probably convinced him that Jim was a sick man and little else. Just don't take that as coming from Gene, since it is such a typical Fred comment. He has always, like Dave, gone way out to try to keep up subtle criticism of you, and can't get off that boat. I read nothing into it. Mary likes Gene and his wife, but thinks he is not too capable or bright, not sophisticated politically, and a guy who likes to get involved in litigation. Her opinion of him and comments about him are reminiscent of the ones she made about Bethell, except that she thinks Bethell is intelligent.

The sentence about you contacting N.O. before Gene got there means nothing to me, and I took it at face value, hoping that you could explain it. I will try to delicately probe this area, but it will be almost impossible to get down to the bottom of it, because just asking about it will seem suspicious to Fred. How in the hell, if this is true, could they know it? I can't understand how it is possible. Furthermore, is it true? Did you send a memo on it or a letter on it. My stuff is just in too much of a mess to check, but I do remember a memo or letter saying that Gene had called you, and perhaps you mentioned contacting N.O. in there. If that is the case, and you really did contact them, and did write about it, then the info on it came either from the govt. or someone else who got a carbon of it leaking it. I am confused and incredulous.

"This stuff" referred to the testimony transcripts, which Dave called me about that one night and which Fred mentioned in those letters I sent you, or set you excerpts from. This all relates to the phone call and that incident. I thought that it was all clear in the letters. This whole present business and set of info deals with Dave's one phone call to me, and Fred's two letters which followed. As far as Bradley being sent to you by Fred, I strongly suspect that this is Fred's grandiosity. I told Bradley on the phone at Mary's that if he had time he should drop in on you if you had time, after calling first, because you might have some subjects which both could discuss. I had previously, during the lengthy debates with Fred and Dave, pointed out that both you and I had questioned the Bradley stuff as a matter of course, especially given those who were backing it (Turner). I continually tried to prevent his stereotyping at that stage because once they were formed he would be no end of trouble. I failed and he is about as irrational as they come, but that's water under the dam.

The accident was OK in the end. The two pedestrians insisted that it was their fault, which it was, and had the additional problem that the husband was out on drugs or alcohol, and that's why they didn't get out of the way, after they walked right in front. Minor car damage, but they're fine, and I am more relaxed and didn't get a ticket or lose my license, and my insurance rates didn't go up, so even the smaller details worked out.

As for contact with Dave, I think that you have a totally wrong impression of what contact I have with him. I had not heard from him in months when he called the other night, and that call had to do with items unrelated to work on the case as such, but rather with his attempts to get testimony transcripts and find out if Mary spilled the beans. I write to Fred periodically, but neither has forgotten the big debate on the subject of you and both tread lightly. I have not written to Dave for many months. Most of my contact with him has involved the great debate on you, etc. With Fred I have largely discussed Fred's own work, and certainly

never sent him anything that should be kept quiet.

Agreed on Bradley. I assumed that was the case without knowing. I think that your attitude and public stance vis a vis Mark is a good one and certainly did not expect you to give Gene anything on him. I did hope, however, that he would trust your objectivity knowing that you did not agree or support Mark's public ravings, and therefore accept your advice on who not to sue--ie. the San Deigo people, Penn. I am so used to Fred's distortions that with the exception of those key and informative paragraphs which I earlier discussed, and which you commented on separately, I took them with a grain of salt.

Do you have the recent press story on the SS's announcement that they will start files on all people who oppose political leaders or who challenge US position, etc.? If not I will xerox and send. It should be in Coup. It is the final step of what you discuss in there.

On Mary and Arch again, they are unusual people, and shy in some respects. They are collecting this data but they do want it to be used, but are very fearful that it will be misused and harm people's reputations. For instance, they are very suspicious of all the Russians in Dallas and especially DeMoh, Gary Taylor, and Bouhe, but wouldn't want their stuff released, but rather used for further work. Although they didn't say it, I gathered that they were somewhat suspicious and distrustful of you before they met you, and this may explain why they didn't call, etc. At present I feel very strongly that you should, in a non-demanding manner, ask for all the items you want, and then wait for the response, and judge it from there. I do not justify their present apparent failure, but feel that the benefit of the doubt should be given, especially when Mary was so open with me, and did that stuff for Jim Schmidt, and may be doing more for him. Lifton and Fred drain time, and she doesn't have that much with a full time job and a family, plus friends who continually call and drop by, so it is hard to decide what is going on. But I did not give Mary things, save for many old things of mine which are old hat to you but about which she might have some unique info, based on emotion or anything of the sort as far as I am concerned. If I had there were many items of yours I could have used to help sell the present state of your work on knowledge, but I didn't even consider and didn't take it with me. I think that you sold me a bit short by judging from a description of what I took ### as a great mass of files. I have very big files for someone who tends not to do memos and to avoid big expenses on documents, etc., and just the old stuff, much of which was new to her, could have filled twice the number of file boxes I took. In many areas she can probably render help, and some of it would be invaluable from what I have seen. The only question which remains in my mind is whether she will, and that is prompted by your experience, not mine. So I really don't feel that your criticism was justified. I have given Lifton nothing of security value, and the same goes to Fred. Just writing to Fred for all this time has not compromised anything of yours, or mine for that matter, that I know of, and it has kept me up on Fred's work and some stuff which has real importance in my mind. As for Fred's basic character, he like Dave was on his good behavior for a while. I do not judge by what others tell me, because if I did then I would have avoided you due to Mark's comments, and avoided Mary due to grapevine type of stuff, etc. But I don't feel that I give out security stuff after initially finding a person credible, and can't recall having done so. So basically, I don't feel "burnt" by Dave or Fred because nothing in my mind was lost, a few things were gained, and I got to understand and be able to explain to others from first hand experience what type of people they were. Furthermore, I got the opportunity, which you would not have had otherwise, to discover accidental and other types of leaks to Dave, which seem a bit relevant given that he is carrying on his own intelligence operation of sorts.

Be more specific on the photo work you want done. My man does not do his own color, but we may be able to get a discount. I will have to know size, how many, etc. If I am in a position at the time, and you think them important, may be able to foot some of the bill.

On Rich Edelman, I sent one letter on Dave, and then a second, very long one, laying it all out. Rich is very much on the ball and should accept my comments at face value. My letter was 100% consistent with yours, ironically, although I had not seen yours at the time.

On Hunt, I'm afraid that my files are in such disorder that I can't be sure what doc's I sent him, but there were only about 3 pages, and you also got copies at the time.

On your letter to Paul, the Free Press thing, which I heard about, overwhelmed me with disgust. Sahl is just unbearable.

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The recent stuff about the slaughter of that Vietnam village was disgusting, and so reminiscent of the 3rd Reich that I don't think I'll be able to sleep tonight.

Masterman is in touch with Joesten from what I know. Agreed on Dave in your letter to Paul and I hope it sticks. He definitely told me on the phone that he would sell those extra transcripts he had xeroxed. The Z film deal, by the way, has netted them a fortune. While they charge something like \$10 a copy, they get it for something like \$3 a copy. They have made hundred's on it and I found out by accident when Fred thought that Dave was cheating him. Fred, by the way, although he seems to respect Dave as a critic, seems to have a basic dislike of Dave deep down which I thought that I had detected, and which Mary mentioned indirectly. I just can't imagine relating to Dave close in the way they do out there. He is hard enough to take in letters and on the phone.

If you write Mary ask her about the indexes to #### to reports which we don't have. She says that there are 5 or 6 that we don't have. Tell her I mentioned it to you.

Thanks for the subscription to the Guardian. Everyone in the house is getting a look at it.

Vince, who sounds a bit depressed and who is feeling much pressure with the school dispute on in Phila, just wrote and mentioned that he spent last weekend in N.O. with Jim. He is soundigg a bit old and worn out which is a real change in the time I have known him.

Well, I'd better close. This is twice as long as I had time to write. I have to catch up on sleep before the trip to Morris. Best wishes to you and Lil.

Gary